

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01428 161530Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W  
-----100359 170816Z /15  
R 161400Z JUN 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7056  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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DEPT FOR EUR ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)  
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON HEINZ GALINSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE  
BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY

REF: STATE 147755

1. GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN DIETRICH STOBBE WISHES TO  
BRING MR. HEINZ GALINSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BERLIN JEWISH  
COMMUNITY, INTO THE PROGRAM FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO  
BERLIN AT SOME POINT. SINCE WORLD WAR TWO, GALINSKI HAS  
WORKED TO REBUILD AND REVIVE BERLIN'S JEWISH COMMUNITY,  
WHICH WAS OVER 200,000 STRONG BEFORE THE WAR AND NOW NUMBERS  
JUST OVER 5,600 BECAUSE OF NAZI DEPREDATIONS. BERLIN'S JEWISH  
COMMUNITY, THE LARGEST IN GERMANY TODAY, ENJOYS INTERNATIONAL  
RECOGNITION, AND BERLIN-ISRAEL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP ARE VERY  
STRONG, MARKED FOR EXAMPLE BY VISITS TO BERLIN OF JERUSALEM  
MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK AND THE APPOINTMENT OF FORMER BERLIN  
GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ AS FRG AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL.  
MISSION PROVIDES BELOW BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON GALINSKI  
WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT SKETCH ON HIM BE INCLUDED IN  
VISIT BRIEFING MATERIALS PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT. PHOTO-  
GRAPH BEING SENT SEPARATELY.

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2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: HEINZ GALINSKI WAS BORN NOVEMBER 28,  
1912 IN MARIENBURG, THEN IN WEST PRUSSIA. HE GRADUATED FROM  
HIGH SCHOOL IN 1927 AND FROM 1949-43 HE WAS  
A FORCED LABORER AT THE SIEMENS-SCHUCKERT WORKS IN  
BERLIN. HE THEN WAS DEPORTED TO AUSCHWITZ CON-  
CENTRATION CAMP WITH HIS WIFE AND PARENTS. OF HIS FAMILY,

GALINSKI ALONE SURVIVED AND IN JANUARY 1945 WAS SENT BY THE NAZIS TO THE DORA-NORDHAUSEN CONCENTRATION CAMP AND THENCE TO THE BERGEN-BELSEN CAMP, WHERE THE BRITISH ARMY FREED HIM IN APRIL 1945. IN AUGUST 1945 HE ASSUMED THE POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NUREMBURG LAWS DEPARTMENT OF THE MAIN OFFICE OF THE VICTIMS OF FASCISM BERLIN. SINCE 1949 HE HAS BEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY, AN INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION. IN SIGNIFICANT PART TO HIS EFFORTS, BERLIN'S JEWISH CULTURE NOW THRIVES, WITH FIVE SYNAGOGUES AND A COMMUNITY CENTER. BERLIN'S JEWISH COMMUNITY, UNDER GALINSKI'S LEADERSHIP, HAS ALSO BECOME A HAVEN FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED SOVIET JEWS.

3. GALINSKI HOLDS VARIOUS POSTS IN OTHER JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS AND IS A DELEGATE OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS.

4. GALINSKI IS REMARRIED. HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE ONE DAUGHTER. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LOU. HEINZ GALINSKI IS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THE SPOKESMAN FOR BERLIN'S JEWISH COMMUNITY, WHICH TODAY TOTALS ONLY 5,600 PERSONS, BUT WHOSE INFLUENCE BELIES ITS SMALL NUMBERS. HE IS RESPECTED AND HONORED, HAVING RECEIVED THE FRG ORDER OF MERIT AND THE BERLIN CITY GOVERNMENT'S ERNST REUTER MEDAL. HIS WORDS ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. GALINSKI MAKES A POINT OF SPEAKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUT AGAINST ANY MANIFESTATIONS OF RESURGENT NAZIISM IN BERLIN OR WEST GERMANY AS A REMINDER OF THE NEED TO AVOID FALLING INTO THE AUTHORITARIAN WAYS OF THE PAST. HE HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING A "CRUSTY CHARACTER" WHO IS NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK HIS MIND AND STRONGLY DEFEND HIS POINT OF VIEW. END LOU.DAVIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014